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SUBJECT: RO: on 880402, actuation of standby gas treatment sys occurred during reactor protection sys power supply transfer.

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 TITLE: 50.73 Licensee Event Report (LER), Incident Rpt, etc.

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May 5, 1988

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
ER 100450 FILE R41-2
PLAS- 317

Docket No. 50-388
License no. NPF-22

This letter is to correct a previous notification which was made to the Commission under 10CFR50.72(b) (2) (ii) on April 3, 1988.

On April 2, 1988 at 2230 hours, with Unit 2 in Condition 5 at 0% power, an actuation of the Standby Gas Treatment System (SGTS; EIIS Code: BH) occurred during a planned Reactor Protection System (RPS; EIIS Code: JC) power supply transfer. In preparation for performing the RPS bus transfer, the operating procedure states that both SGTS Train 'A' and Train 'B' be manually started as good operating practice to avert automatic initiations. The Unit 2 reactor operator (utility, licensed) directed that the SGTS Train 'B' be started, but inadvertently did not direct the starting of the 'A' Train. Thus, when the RPS bus was transferred, the 'A' SGTS Train started automatically. The 'A' Train started, ran properly and was available to perform its design function, if required, during the entire evolution.

It was initially determined by Operations Shift Supervision personnel that this incident was not reportable pursuant to 10CFR50.72 because it occurred during a preplanned evolution. The subsequent Operations shift, however, determined otherwise and a verbal notification was made to the Commission on April 3, 1988. Since the start of the SGTS was identified in the operating procedure as part of the preplanned sequence during RPS bus transfer, this event is not considered to be reportable under 10CFR50.72(b) (2) (ii) or under 10CFR50.73 (a) (2) (iv). PP&L recognizes that the Commission compares those events determined to be immediately reportable (i.e., those events reported under 10CFR50.72) to the events reported under the Licensee Event Report System (i.e., those events reported under 10CFR50.73). This letter is to inform the Commission that since this event is not reportable as an unplanned actuation of the SGTS, a Licensee Event Report will not be filed.

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EVENT DESCRIPTION

On April 2, 1988 at 2230 hours, with Unit 2 in Condition 5 at 0% power, an actuation of the Standby Gas Treatment System (SGTS; EIIS Code: BH) occurred during a planned Reactor Protection System (RPS; EIIS Code: JC) power supply transfer. In preparation for performing the RPS bus transfer, the operating procedure states that both SGTS Train 'A' and Train 'B' be manually started as good operating practice to avert automatic initiations. The Unit 2 reactor operator (utility, licensed) directed that the SGTS Train 'B' be started, but inadvertently did not direct the starting of the 'A' Train. Thus, when the RPS bus was transferred, the 'A' SGTS Train started automatically. The 'A' Train started, ran properly and was available to perform its design function, if required, during the entire evolution.

CAUSE OF EVENT

This incident was caused by cognitive personnel error on the part of the Unit 2 licensed operator. The operating procedure being used to transfer the RPS bus from its alternate power supply to its normal power supply was technically correct as written. The procedure required the manual starting of both trains of the SGTS, however, the starting of both trains was within the same step which is contrary to the station's procedural guidelines of one action per procedural step. The operator, potentially influenced by the manner in which the procedural step was written, inadvertently only directed the starting of the 'B' Train.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The operator was counseled by Operations Shift Supervision regarding the importance of closely following procedures. Although the operating procedure being used was technically correct, it did not comply with the station's procedural guidelines of one action per procedural step. The procedure is being revised to clearly delineate the starting of each SGTS train, as separate action steps, prior to an RPS power supply transfer.


R.G. Byram

Superintendent of Plant - Susquehanna

RRW/mjm

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